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**GUA DALAM BATU KAPUR BALAMBANGAN, PULAU BALAMBANGAN,  
SABAH**

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**ABSTRAK**

Island of Balambangan, offshore Sabah offers great and outstanding scientific, aesthetic and cultural values that make the island very important in term of geoheritage conservation. Despite its small size, the island has beautiful landscapes and other geological elements that bear high ecotourism potentials. The island has a wide spectrum of rock types and paleoenvironments. It's rock type comprises basaltic igneous that has been deposited together with deep sea sediment and clastic as well as carbonate sediments that have been deposited in shallow marine environments. The age of these rocks range from Cretaceous to Pliocene. Since its emergence, the island have been carved by weathering and erosion into beautiful landscape and morphology. The clastic sediment at the southern tip of the island have been carved by wave into various shapes some of which resemble certain living creatures. Weathering and erosion on the Balambangan limestone member, on the other hand had produced unique karst morphology and landscape. The Balambangan Limestone hosts more than 20 caves with beautiful cave formations. The youngest Timohing formation provides a good example of the recent products of geological processes and can be of high scientific value. In summary, the island has a good very good package for geotourism, edutourism and conservation.